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SUBJECT: OPIUM BAN "NEWS TREATMENT"

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR:

QUOTE TURKEY PLANS TO LIFT OPIUM BAN; U.S. RELATIONS
STRAINED. BY SAM COHEN. SPECIAL TO THE CHRISTIAN
MONITOR.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY. THE TURKISH POPPY, EXPECTED TO REAPPEAR
SOON IN THE FIELDS OF WESTERN ANATOLIA, ALREADY HAS
STARTED TO SHOW ITS POISONOUS EFFECTS ON THE RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TURKEY.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO LIFT THE OPIUM BAN,
ENFORCED IN 1972 FOLLOWING AMERICAN PRESSURE, HAS BECOME
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A HEATED POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIES. TENSION

IS RUNNING HIGH IN TURKEY AND THERE ARE SIGNS OF A NEW WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM.

OBSERVERS ARE CONCERNED THE CLOCK COULD BE TURNED BACK IN U.S. TURKISH RELATIONS TO ATTITUDES OF THE LATE 1960'S, WHEN ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS SOARED OVER THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

PLANS UNDER STUDY. PREMIER BULENT ECEVIT'S COALITION

GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE SOON A TOTAL END TO THE POPPY-GROWING BAN. RECENTLY THE ADMINISTRATION HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW THE PLANTING OF POPPIES ONLY IN STATE-OWNED EXPERIMENTAL FARMS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE SEEDS, WHICH ARE REGARDED AS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY IN THE WORLD. THIS IS SEEN AS THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS REINTRODUCTION OF THE POPPY CULTIVATION IN PRIVATE FARMS AS WELL.

IN FACT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW DISCUSSING PLANS DRAWN UP BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ALREADY APPROVED BY THE CABINET'S ECONOMIC AGENCY FOR THE LIFTING OF THE BAN. UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE CULTIVATION OF POPPY WILL BE ALLOWED ON FIELDS LIMITED TO ABOUT 50,000 ACRES, UNDER LICENSE. THE CONTROLLED CULTIVATION IS EXPECTED TO YIELD 200 TONS OF CRUDE OPIUM PER YEAR. A STATE AGENCY WILL BUY THE POPPY DIRECTLY FROM THE FARMERS FOR 15 LIRA (ABOUT 1 DOLLAR) A KILOGRAM (2.2 POUNDS).

GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY THE CULTIVATION OF POPPY WILL BE RESUMED NEXT FALL.

MEANTIME TALKS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND ANKARA ON THE QUESTION ARE CONTINUING. WASHINGTON IS PRESSING FOR CONTINUATION OF THE BAN AND SEEMS PREPARED TO HELP THE 100,000 TURKISH FARMERS WHO ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SUFFERING ECONOMICALLY FROM THE PROHIBITION. THE U.S. IS PAYING TURKEY A 35 MILLION DOLS. GRANT FOR COMPENSATION TO THE FARMERS AND FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF SUBSTITUTE CROPS.

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DETERMINATION SEEN. HOWEVER, ANKARA DOES NOT SEEM TO WANT TO USE THE ISSUE FOR BARGAINING OR PRY MORE MONEY FROM THE U.S. FOREIGN MINISTER TURAN GUNES SAID RECENTLY "MONEY IS NOT IMPORTANT. WE CANNOT ALLOW THE FARMERS TO DEPEND ON CHARITY OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY, NO MATTER HOW FRIENDLY THAT COUNTRY MAY BE."

AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HERE THINK THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT

IS DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS PLAN TO LIFT THE BAN. THEIR CONCERN IS THAT ANY HARSH MOVE TO PREVENT IT MAY CAUSE MORE DAMAGE THAN GOOD.

IN FACT, SOME UNOFFICIAL ANGRY REACTION FOR THE U.S. ALREADY HAS PROVOKED RESENTMENT AND TENSION HERE. TWO U.S. CONGRESSMEN, REPS. LESTER WOLFF AND CHARLES B. RANGEL, WHO CAME TO TURKEY ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION, WERE COOLLY RECEIVED. WHEN THEY WERE QUOTED AS SAYING

THAT CONGRESS MAY REVISE THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM TO TURKEY IF THE BAN IS LIFTED, TURKISH PARLIAMENTARIANS, POLITICIANS, AND NEWSPAPERS REACTED STRONGLY.

THE CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER AMERICAN DIPLOMATS WHO VISITED THE OPIUM GROWING AREAS WERE TOLD BY FARMERS THAT THEY WANTED TO GO BACK TO THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. ONE DIPLOMAT OBSERVED THAT POPPY GROWING HAD BEEN "A WAY OF LIFE" FOR THESE PEOPLE FOR CENTURIES. INDEED THE TURKISH FARMER--WHO DOES NOT USE THE OPIUM AS A DRUG HIMSELF--DRAWS SEVERAL BENEFITS FROM THE BY-PRODUCTS AS COOKING OIL, FUEL AND FODDER.

FARMERS LONG CRITICAL. THE FARMERS HAVE BEEN MOST UNHAPPY WITH THE BAN. THEIR MAIN COMPLAINT WAS THAT NOTHING OR VERY LITTLE WAS DONE IN WAY OF INTRODUCING SUBSTITUTE CROPS OR NEW JOBS.

THE AMERICANS BLAME PREVIOUS TURKISH GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES FOR THIS, CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO PRODUCE OR IMPLEMENT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, WHICH WASHINGTON WAS PREPARED TO FINANCE. "THE TURKS ARE GOING THE EASY WAY, BY LIFTING THE BAN AND KEEPING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FARMERS POOR, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO INTRODUCE NEW CROPS AND IMPROVE THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS," A HIGH-RANKING U.S. DIPLOMAT SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, AND ALMOST ALL THE PARTIES, ARGUE THAT THE BAN WAS IMPOSED BY AN ARMY-APPOINTED GOVERNMENT AND THEREFORE DID NOT REFLECT THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE. WITH A DEMOCRATIC REGIME NOW, IT APPEARS INEVITABLE THAT SUCH AN UNPOPULAR MEASURE SHOULD BE REVOKED. THE TURKS SAY THAT ANY ATTEMPT BY THE U.S. TO INFLUENCE TURKEY TO MAINTAIN THE BAN IS AN "INTERFERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SOVEREIGNTY."

COMPETITION CITED. ANOTHER ARGUMENT IS THAT THE TURKISH FARMERS CANNOT BE FORCED "TO PAY THE BILL FOR OTHER

PEOPLE" WHO USE DRUGS. SAID A TURKISH EDITOR, "IT'S
LIKE ASKING THE CAR FACTORIES IN DETROIT NOT TO MANUFAC-
TURE AUTOMOBILES, BECAUSE THEY CAUSE ACCIDENTS HERE."

THE TURKS ALSO SAY ON THE GROUND OF RECENT INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES INDICATING THAT THE WORLD OUTPUT OF RAW OPIUM
WAS INADEQUATE FOR MEDICINAL USE, THAT TURKEY SHOULD
NOT BE STOPPED FROM PRODUCING THE WORLD'S BEST-QUALITY
POPPY. REPORTS THAT THE U.S. WAS ORDERING LARGE QUANTI-
TIES OF OPIUM FROM INDIA FOR MEDICINAL USE PROVOKED AN

ANGRY REACTION HERE. FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES SAID,
"THIS MEANS OUR LEGITIMATE INCOME WILL FLOW FROM NOW ON
TO OTHER COUNTRIES."

THE AMERICAN-TRAINED PREMIER ECEVIT SEEMS TO BE AWARE OF

THE "HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS," AS HE PUTS IT, THAT OPIUM
CAUSES PARTICULARLY IN THE U.S. HE WANTS FOR THIS REASON
TO KEEP THE OPIUM PRO

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